

Comments on Proceeding 05-235  
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I support the proposal to eliminate the Morse Code requirement as it is written.

In the internet age, and with the expanded use of digital communications by Amateurs, a requirement to know Morse Code to have access to the HF bands is out of date. Knowing Morse Code does not make you a better Amateur Radio Operator if you choose not to use that mode of communication. The simple fact is that having the Morse Code requirement is a significant barrier to new Amateurs becoming licensed, and a barrier to existing Technician licensees upgrading their license to General Class. In a time of declining number of Amateur Radio licensees, you should make it easier and simpler to attract new licensees, particularly youth. All licensees have the option of learning Morse Code, but it should be an option and not a requirement.

You will have many proponents of retaining Morse Code as a requirement for HF access, and they will make compelling arguments. The horror stories of Amateur Radio turning into Citizens Band radio that some may try to sell you simply does not hold water. Amateur Radio does a good job of policing itself, and Amateurs who operate outside the rules are quickly reminded of the rules by others. If the improper behavior persists, most Amateurs will ignore the offenders and they go away. Only in rare cases is it necessary to make a referral to your Enforcement Division and Riley Hollingsworth.

The last World Radio Conference left the decision to drop the Morse Code requirement for licensing with the individual countries, and country after country has dropped the requirement. The United States should join the rest of the world in dropping the Morse Code requirement for licensing.

Although I support elimination of Morse Code as a requirement for licensing, I believe that the current band restrictions for Morse Code operations be preserved. Spectrum must be provided for the exclusive use of Morse Code to maintain it's viability for the many Amateurs who chose to use it.

You should protect this existing legacy while eliminating the requirement for licensing.

Respectfully submitted this 26<sup>th</sup> day of October  
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